

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) A method for dry etching a metal film made of one of aluminum and aluminum alloy, said method comprising steps of:

providing a substrate with a metal film thereon, said metal film having a first portion covered by a photoresist and a second portion uncovered by said photoresist;

using a dry etchant to etch off said second portion;

using a stripping agent to remove said photoresist on said first portion and simultaneously form a water-insoluble passivation layer by reacting said stripping agent with an etching by-product on a third portion of said etched metal film exposed from said photoresist substantially immediately after etching off said second portion; and

using a washing agent to wash off said water-insoluble passivation layer after said photoresist is removed.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 11 wherein said dry etchant includes one of chlorine (Cl_2) and boron trichloride (BCl_3), which reacts with aluminum to form said etching by-product comprising water-soluble aluminum chloride (AlCl_x) on said third portion of said metal film, and said stripping agent reacts with aluminum chloride (AlCl_x) to form said water-insoluble passivation layer on said ~~third~~ third portion of said metal film.

13. (Original) The method according to claim 10 wherein said stripping agent is monoethanolamine (MEA), and said washing agent is isopropyl alcohol (IPA), water or a combination thereof.

14-18. (Cancelled)